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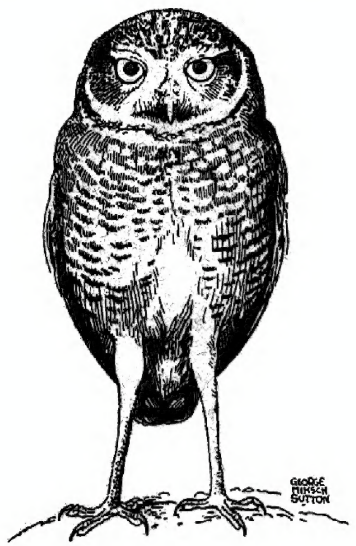
The Nebraska Bird Review

A Magazine of Ornithology of the Nebraska Region

Volume 87 March 2019 Number 1



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NEBRASKA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION TREASURER'S REPORT December 31, 2018

CHECKING	General Funds	Breeding Bird Atlas	Scholarship Fund	Endowment Fund	Total
Jan. 1, 2018 Balance Checking	13,183.71	$6,901.00 (Savings acct.)	$1,076.05	$0.00	21,160.76
RECEIPTS					
Memberships	$2,766.00				$2,766.00
Subscriptions	$345.00				$345.00
Atlas		$19.60			$19.60
Donations	$430.00		$216.39		$646.39
Spring Meeting - Ft. Robinson	$3,887.50				$3,887.50
Fall Meeting - Ainsworth	$1,719.00				$1,719.00
Picture Auction-Ft. Rob	$95.00				$95.00
Sub-total Receipts	9,242.50	$19.60	$216.39	$0.00	$9,478.49
DISBURSEMENTS					
NBR - Jan.-Dec. 2018	$4,537.49				$4,537.49
Newsletter - Printing					
Newsletter - Postage					
Spring Meeting - Ft. Robinson	$4,043.46				$4,043.46
Fall Meeting - Ainsworth	$1,149.00				$1,149.00
Scholarship - fall- Ainsworth	$25.00		$194.90		$219.90
Spring Meeting - Ft. Rob			$81.22		$81.22
USPS - stamps	$10.00				$10.00
Kathy Delara - web page	$260.22				$260.22
Member Reimbursements	$161.76				$161.76
Acuity Insurance	$350.00				$350.00
Sub-total Disbursements	$10,536.93		$276.12		$10,813.05
12/31/2018 Bal. - Checking	$12,167.39	$6,920.60	$1,016.32		$20,104.31

CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT		
Jan. 1, 2017 Balance CD	$35,927.66	$35,927.66
Interest Earned	$93.53	$93.53
Jan. 1, 2018 Balance CD	$36,021.19	$36,021.19
Maturity	6/27/20	
CD Annual Rates	0.26%	
Endowment Principal	$36,021.19	

GRAND TOTAL	$56,125.50

WINTER FIELD REPORT, December 2018 to February 2019

Compiled by W. Ross Silcock
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INTRODUCTION

As has been the trend in recent winters, and despite the relative coolness of this winter, there were numerous examples of species north of expected midwinter ranges or present in higher numbers than usual in winter. The long list includes unexpected midwinter records of Tundra Swan, American Wigeon, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, White-winged Dove, Sandhill Crane, Clark's Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Red-shouldered Hawk, and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Startling was the state's first winter record of Sedge Wren, perhaps the biggest rarity of the season. And Eastern Meadowlark was documented in midwinter for the first time, although its presence in the southeast has been suspected. Record winter counts were made of Mallard (124,000), Common Merganser (20,000-31,000), Eurasian Collared-Dove (1500), and American Goldfinch (342).

Trends of concern are the continuing decline of Black-billed Magpie and new indications of problems with Black-capped Chickadee and even possibly Tufted Titmouse. On the positive side, Greater Prairie-Chicken is doing well in the northeast and Barred Owl is sprinting westward in the Republican River Valley. Very low numbers of Common Redpoll and Red Crossbill are probably cyclically-related, as might be the virtual absence of Gray Partridge and Pinyon Jay the last couple of years.

The winter was devoid of rarities, the best being the aforementioned winter Sedge Wren, Black Rosy-Finch, two Varied Thrushes, and a Dark-eyed (Pink-sided) Junco documented for the east.

As always, I welcome your comments, corrections of fact, and general thoughts. After all, much of this is my personal opinion, albeit hopefully factually-based! Contact me at silcock@rosssilcock.com.

ABBREVIATIONS

BOL: Branched Oak Lake, *Lancaster*
CBC: Christmas Bird Count
CBL: Capitol Beach Lake, Lincoln, *Lancaster*
Cem: Cemetery
FF: Fontenelle Forest, *Sarpy*
GPD: Gavins Point Dam, *Cedar*
HCR: Harlan Co Reservoir, *Harlan*

HL: Holmes Lake, Lincoln, *Lancaster*
LM: Lake McConaughy, *Keith*
m.ob.: multiple observers
NM: National Monument
NNF: Nebraska National Forest
NWR: National Wildlife Refuge
RA: Recreation Area
Res: Reservoir
RWB: Rainwater Basin, including several south-central and southeastern playa basins
SHP: State Historical Park
SL: Sewage Lagoon(s)
SP: State Park
SR: Sutherland Reservoir, *Lincoln*
SRA: State Recreation Area
WMA: (State) Wildlife Management Area
WP: Wilderness Park, Lincoln, *Lancaster*
WPA: (Federal) Waterfowl Production Area

OBSERVERS

Chris Alred (CAl)
Chris Anderson (CAn)
Noah Arthur (NA)
Gavin Awerbuch (GAw)
Wendy Becker (WBe)
Elliott Bedows (EB)
Matt Beisel (MBe)
Eric Bents (EBe)
Susan Bonfiglio (SBo)
Scott Bradley (SBr)
Stephen Brenner (SBn)
Ed Brogie (EBr)
Lee Brogie (LBr)
Mary Bomberger Brown (MBB)
Sandy Budde (SBu)
Scott Buss (SB)
Leslie Christipher (LCh)
Matt Clark (MCl)
Virginia Clark (VC)
Mary Clausen (MC)
Jen Corman (JCo)
Kelly Corman (KCo)
Colin Croft (CCf)
Charlotte Croshaw (CCr)
Olivia DaRugna (ODa)
Allyson Dather (ADa)
Linda Deeds (LDe)
Kathy DeLara (KD)
Roger Dietrich (RD)
Stephen J. Dinsmore (SJD)
Paul Dunbar (PD)
Boni Edwards (BEd)
Larry Einemann (LE)
Dave Ely (DE)
Julianna Faucher (JFa)
William Flack (WF)
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Phil Swanson (PS)
Jim & Linda Swenson (J&LS)
Jason Thiele (JTh)
Jerry Toll (JT)
T. J. Walker (TJW)
Don & Marion Weidemann (D&MW)
Amber Wesely (AWe)
Anne Wilson (AWi)
Erica Wilson (EWn)
Elizabeth Winter (EWi)
Rick Wright (RW)

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Snow Goose: The 600 at SR 19 Jan (JGJ) was a good midwinter (10-20 Jan) tally.

Ross's Goose: Routine reports.

Greater White-fronted Goose: Midwinter reports (1-30 Jan) from the Panhandle are less than annual; 4-7 were at a pond along Highway 26, *Scotts Bluff* 13-19 Jan (CSe, KD), and another was nearby 1 Jan (EBr, LBr). A good midwinter count was the 300-400 in *Dodge* 7-10 Jan (CCr).

Barnacle Goose: Three were photographed in a *Colfax* field 2 Jan (MSw fide JGJ). This is the sixth report for Nebraska and, strangely, the second from *Colfax*. Provenance of Barnacle Geese in Nebraska is unknown; the species is not accepted on the Nebraska Official List, but recent North American records suggest that wild birds may reach the Great Plains, analogous to recent occurrences of Pink-footed Goose.

Canada Goose: The 10,002 (!) at Swanson Res, *Hitchcock* 15 Dec 2018 (JGJ) was a good count.

Mute Swan: The provenance of two near Cunningham Lake, *Douglas* 23 Dec (GAw) is unknown, but most likely they were of domestic origin.

Trumpeter Swan: Routine reports.

Tundra Swan: Recently, singles (mostly) have been reported in midwinter in the east among the ever-increasing numbers of Trumpeter Swans there. This winter, one was at DeSoto NWR, *Washington* 25 Dec (EBr, LBr) and a possible Tundra was in *Platte* 21 Feb (SB). Westward, one was on the LM CBC, *Keith* 30 Dec (fide SJD).

Wood Duck: Records from midwinter, which are rare and less than annual in the Panhandle, included one at Pier Park, Grand Island, 8 Jan (SM), three at Lakeside Park, Omaha, 3 Feb (EBe), three on the LM CBC, *Keith* 30 Dec (fide SJD), and singles at Flanagan Lake, *Douglas* 20 Jan (EBe) and in *Dodge* 5 Feb (CCr).

Northern Shoveler: *Lincoln* is a regular wintering area, but more than usual were reported there, a total of about 42 at five sites 12 Jan-9 Feb (m. ob.). Six were at Pier Park, Grand Island, 8 Jan (SM).

Gadwall: Routine reports.

American Wigeon: A surprising number of reports for midwinter (12 Jan-6 Feb) were from sites away from the North Platte River Valley; such reports have been less than annual. As many as 13 were at Enders Res, *Chase* 14 Jan (WF), and 1-3 were reported at 4 additional locations from Fort Niobrara NWR, *Cherry* eastward (m. ob.).

Mallard: A record tally for winter in Nebraska was the 124,000 (62 scope views of 2000) made at SR, a major wintering location, 5 Jan (SMl, DE).

American Black Duck: Encouraging for this declining species was a count record five on the DeSoto NWR CBC, *Washington* (fide JT). There were no other reports.

Northern Pintail: Routine reports.

Green-winged Teal: Routine reports.

Canvasback: Notable midwinter (mid-Jan) reports were of two in *Lancaster* 14-18 Jan (LE) and one in *Douglas* 20 Jan (EBe).

Redhead: Routine reports.

Ring-necked Duck: Notable midwinter (mid-Jan) reports were the 21 at Fort Niobrara NWR, *Cherry* 14 Jan (MCl, SBo) and one at Enders Res, *Chase* the same day (WF).

Greater Scaup: Notable in midwinter (6 Jan-2 Feb) away from expected wintering locations was one in *Douglas* 1 Feb (RS).

Lesser Scaup: An unexpected location for overwintering was Ta-Ha-Zouka Park, *Madison*, where 1-3 were present 18 Jan-21 Feb (m. ob.). Two at HL 20 Jan (LE) were a noteworthy midwinter record.

Surf Scoter: None were reported; expected last dates are 20 Dec (three times).

White-winged Scoter: The only report was of one rather late at Lake Maloney, *Lincoln* 15 Dec (JGJ).

Black Scoter: Only the second winter (9 Jan-24 Feb) record was a surprising group of three males and two females at Stagecoach Lake, *Lancaster* 19 Jan (JGJ).

Long-tailed Duck: Two, and possibly three, singles were reported. An adult male was on the HCR CBC, *Harlan* 14 Dec (WRS, m. ob.), one was in the GPD area, *Knox* and *Cedar* 14-22 Dec (EBr, LBr, m. ob.), and perhaps a different bird was in the same area 26-27 Jan (RD, EBr, LBr).

Bufflehead: A male was an unexpected northerly midwinter sighting at Fort Niobrara NWR, *Cherry* (MCl, SBo).

Common Goldeneye: The estimated 1200 in the GPD area, *Cedar* and *Knox* 16-22 Jan (CAn, SMa) was a good count.

Barrow's Goldeneye: There were three reports, two from the North Platte River Valley where it occurs each year, the other only the third record away from there, a male in *Knox* 14-21 Dec (EBr, LBr, SMe). The North Platte River Valley reports were of single males at North Platte 15-16 Dec (JJ, m. ob.), and Gering, *Scotts Bluff* 31 Dec (EBr, LBr).

Hooded Merganser: Routine reports.

Common Merganser. Huge numbers were at HCR in early winter, variously estimated at 20,000 on 13 Dec (JGJ) and 31,000 on 14 Dec (WRS). Either estimate is a record high winter tally for the state.

Red-breasted Merganser: All reports were from the LM area; 1-3 were present 5 Jan-2 Feb (SMl, DE, m. ob.).

Ruddy Duck: Less than annual in midwinter (7 Jan-16 Feb), a surprise was one that lingered at CBL until 18 Jan (LE).

Northern Bobwhite: Five that flew across the road near Gordon, *Sheridan* 18 Feb (D&MW) were only the second northwestern report; this species is sporadic in the northern Panhandle.

Gray Partridge: None were reported; numbers of this species are currently at a cyclic low.

Ring-necked Pheasant: Routine reports.

Sharp-tailed Grouse: Routine reports.

Greater Prairie-Chicken: A series of counts in northwestern *Boone* 29 Dec that totaled 254 birds, including a flock of 150+ (JTh) indicated that this part of *Boone*, as well as southwestern *Antelope*, has excellent grassland habitat for this species (JTh).

Wild Turkey: Flocks of over 100 in winter are not unusual, but amazing were the 300 in a backyard in Snell Canyon, *Lincoln* 11 Feb where 200-500 pass through "most days during the winter" (TSh).

Pied-billed Grebe: The only midwinter (9 Jan-21 Feb) report was of a single at SR 2 Feb (SMl); it might have been wintering there.

Horned Grebe: Only the fourth midwinter (3 Jan-2 Mar) record was of one accompanying a Pied-billed Grebe at SR 2 Feb (SMl).

Red-necked Grebe: Two on the LM CBC, *Keith* 30 Dec (fide SJD) were rather late; expected last dates are 2-4 Jan.

Eared Grebe: None were reported; expected last dates are 18-19 Dec.

Western Grebe: Reports were from sites where winter reports occur, albeit less than annually. One to two were at SR 29 Dec-2 Feb (WRS, SMl, DE). At LM, 79 were still present 5 Jan (SMl, DE) and one lingered until 13 Jan (WF, JNi).

Clark's Grebe: Only the fourth record for Jan was one at LM 5 Jan (SMl, DE).

Rock Pigeon: Routine reports.

Eurasian Collared-Dove: Numbers continue to increase statewide; a new high non-CBC count was the estimate of at least 1500 in Kearney, *Buffalo* 2 Jan (TJW). The observer noted "power lines along road completely full - all four wires and a cloud of birds flying around the grain piles".

White-winged Dove: One north of North Platte 23 Feb (VC photo) may have made it through the winter; if so, it was the fifth record of overwintering. There were four reports 13 Dec-31 Jan, two of which were suggestive of unsuccessful overwintering attempts: 17 Dec-31 Jan in the Fremont, *Dodge* area (m. ob.) and up to five at a North Platte location 16 Dec-19 Jan (m. ob.). In addition, one was in *Lancaster* 13 Dec (M&CV) and three were at Ogallala, *Keith* 30 Dec (WRS).

Mourning Dove: Routine reports.

Virginia Rail: Routine reports.

American Coot: Routine reports.

Sandhill Crane: Surprising were the 1-2 pairs at Lake Wanahoo, *Saunders* 4-6 Jan (KK, m. ob.), only the fifth early Jan record since 2000; expected early spring dates are 23-24 Jan.

Killdeer: One in *Washington* 2 Jan (MC) was rather late; expected late dates in the east are 1-7 Jan.

American Woodcock: None were reported; expected early dates are 21-22 Feb.

Wilson's Snipe: Routine reports.

Greater Yellowlegs: Only the ninth record 6 Dec-29 Feb was one in *Buffalo* 17 Dec (AP).

Bonaparte's Gull: One at SR 5 Jan (SMl, DE) was rather late; expected last dates are 3-5 Jan.

Franklin's Gull: Routine reports.

Mew Gull: Likely the same adult was at Martin Bay, LM 30 Dec (SJD) and 19 Jan (NA).

Ring-billed Gull: Routine reports.

California Gull: Routine reports.

Herring Gull: Routine reports.

Iceland (Thayer's) Gull: There were reports from three locations. Two in *Cedar* 4 Dec (EBr, LBr) and one in *Lancaster* 5 Dec (JGJ) were at locations where less than annual, whereas at LM, where rare but annual, two were on the LM CBC 30 Dec; singles were reported there subsequently 5 Jan (SMl, DE) and 3 Feb (JR, SAl, SBr).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Essentially a migrant in Nebraska, only the 10th and 11th midwinter (5 Jan-1 Feb) records were of singles at LM 5-20 Jan (SMl, DE, m. ob.) and BOL 11-13 Jan (EWi, TG).

Glaucous Gull: Routine reports.

Common Loon: Only the sixth midwinter (3 Jan-10 Mar) record was of one at LM 16 Jan (JGJ).

Double-crested Cormorant: Numbers wintering at the SR cooling pond continue to increase; a new high was the 24 there 29 Dec (WRS), but only four remained through 10 Feb (JNi). The only other midwinter (22 Dec-2 Mar) reports were of singles at LM 30 Dec (fide SJD) and 6 Feb (BEd).

American White Pelican: The only midwinter (3 Jan-17 Feb) record was of a sick or injured bird at Glenn Cunningham Lake, Omaha, 5-6 Jan (SMa, BP). Best count at SR was 12 on 4 Feb (BEd).

Great Blue Heron: Northerly for the dates were singles in *Antelope* 1 Feb (WF) and *Stanton* 2 Feb (SB).

Golden Eagle: Routine reports.

Northern Harrier: Routine reports.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: Routine reports.

Cooper's Hawk: Routine reports.

Northern Goshawk: One was well-described in *Dixon* 13 Dec (EBr), and another report as yet unconfirmed (www.eBird.org) was of one in *Cheyenne* 5 Jan (LCh).

Bald Eagle: Routine reports.

Red-shouldered Hawk: There were numerous reports through the period (m. ob.), including seven from various locations in *Lancaster* and one from *Saunders* (SMa, GR) in the southeast where this species appears to have become a rare resident in recent years. Along with the increase in sightings in the southeast, sightings elsewhere are increasing: an immature was in *Harlan* 14 Dec (WRS), and juveniles were in *Cedar* 24 Dec (EBr, LBr) and Shelton, *Buffalo* 16 Jan (fide JGJ).

(Eastern) Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis borealis*): Routine reports.

(Eastern) Red-tailed Hawk (pale morph, "Krider's"): The only report was of one in *Sarpy* 4 Jan, (fide WRS), where it is less than annual in winter.

(Northern) Red-tailed Hawk (*B. j. abieticola*): The two reports were from *Lancaster* 24 Jan (NA) and 13 Feb (NA). These are the fourth and fifth photographic records of this taxon since its recent recognition by eBird; it is probably a regular winter visitor to Nebraska.

(Western) Red-tailed Hawk (*B. j. calurus*): Routine reports.

(Harlan's) Red-tailed Hawk (*B. j. harlani*): Routine reports.

Rough-legged Hawk: Routine reports.

Ferruginous Hawk: Routine reports.

Eastern Screech-Owl: Routine reports.

Great Horned Owl: Pale resident birds in western Nebraska are generally thought to be intergrades of pale northern *Bubo virginianus subarcticus* and browner eastern *B. v. virginianus*, but in winter even paler birds may occur from northern populations. Photos suggest that a pale bird photographed in *Keith* 20 Jan (BHo fide JGJ) was likely a northern *B. v. subarcticus*.

Snowy Owl: There were only two birds reported, both of which stayed for around two weeks; one was in *Rock* 17 Jan-3 Feb (JCo, ADa) and another was in Fremont, *Dodge* 16 Jan-9 Feb (AWe fide JGJ, m. ob.).

Barred Owl: This species is continuing its remarkable expansion westward along the Republican River Valley. Three found near Orleans on the HCR CBC, *Harlan* 14 Dec (fide JGJ) suggested that the recently-established population there is consolidating. Perhaps even more surprising were the two at Oxford, *Furna*s 17 Feb (WF), a few miles west of Orleans; there is only one record further west, that also in *Furnas*.

Long-eared Owl: Routine reports.

Short-eared Owl: Routine reports.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: Calling generally begins in mid-Feb in the cedar canyons of southeastern *Lincoln*, but this year one was calling record early 12 Jan (LDe). Calling is likely pre-migratory, but breeding in the area has not been ruled out.

Belted Kingfisher: Northerly for the dates were singles in *Antelope* 23 Jan (SB) and *Madison* 27 Jan (DH).

Red-headed Woodpecker: Less than annual in midwinter (2 Jan-20 Feb) away from the extreme southeast, this year four were in northeast *Cherry* 5 Jan (JCo, KCo) and one was in *Keya Paha* 7 Jan (JCo).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: Routine reports.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Reports in Dec-Feb are increasing; on the HCR CBC, this species has been found each of the last five years, whereas in the six-year period 1996-2001, none were found (JGJ). Reports outside the expected winter range in the southeast were of two in *Harlan* 14-15 Dec (JGJ, RFl), one in *Hitchcock* 15 Dec (JGJ), 1-2 in *Lincoln* 16 Dec (JGJ, JNi), 29 Dec (WBe), and 16 Feb (WBe), and one in *Madison* 4 Jan (WF).

Downy Woodpecker: Routine reports.

Hairy Woodpecker: Routine reports.

Northern Flicker: Routine reports

Pileated Woodpecker: Routine reports.

American Kestrel: Singles at Fort Niobrara NWR, *Cherry* 14 Jan (MCl, SBo) and at Chadron SP, *Dawes* 19 Jan (JCo, KCo) were northerly for the dates.

Merlin: Subspecies *Falco columbarius columbarius* is less than annual in midwinter; one photographed in Omaha 31 Dec (SMa) apparently had wintered in the area for the past several winters.

Peregrine Falcon: Routine reports.

Prairie Falcon: Easternmost, where rare, were singles in *Burt* 8 Feb (JT), *Douglas* 8 Dec (JR), and *Cass* 30 Dec (BP, MC).

Loggerhead Shrike: None were reported of this rare winter visitor in the extreme southeast.

Northern Shrike: Routine reports.

Pinyon Jay: None were reported of this erratic, uncommon western winter visitor.

Steller's Jay: One wintered at the Croft feeders, *Scotts Bluff* through at least 31 Mar (CCf, m. ob.).

Blue Jay: An excellent midwinter tally was the 73 at the Wyuka Cemetery pond, *Lancaster* 13 Feb (LE).

Black-billed Magpie: The small population, now possibly only a single pair, persists just west of Norfolk, *Madison;* two were there 27 Jan (SB, DH). This is now the only known location for this species in the eastern half of the state. Indicative of this species' decline in recent years was the failure to find any on the HCR CBC, *Harlan* in the last four years, whereas in the HCR CBCs of 1996-2001, there was an average of 24 per year (JGJ). In contrast, the species is doing well in *Scotts Bluff,* where it was reported at several locations with a high count of seven at the landfill area northeast of Scottsbluff 1 Jan (EBr, LBr).

American Crow: Routine reports.

Horned Lark: Routine reports.

Black-capped Chickadee: After a major decline in numbers from 2003 to 2013 in parts of Nebraska, generally attributed to West Nile Virus (www.birdsofnebraska.org), recovery occurred in many places with levels returning during the last few years to those prior to the outbreak. However, some areas have been slow to recover or have suffered another recent decline. The HCR CBC, *Harlan*, averaged 99 per year from 1996 to 2001 but only 12 per year from 2014 to 2018. Surprisingly also, the LM CBC, *Keith,* found only **one** chickadee in its 30 Dec 2018 iteration; peak tally there was 84 in 2001 (fide SJD). Joe Gubanyi provided data for the Seward-BOL CBC: the

average for this CBC from 1992-2002 was 169 and from 2003-2018 was 44. In 2018, the Seward-BOL CBC tally was 31, the lowest tally in the last 10 years, strongly suggesting chickadees have not recovered to pre-outbreak numbers in this CBC area. A slow recovery is evident in *Dodge*, where one in the observers' yard was the "first for years" (D&JP). Clem Klaphake provided a citation (https://news.mongabay.com/2018) (for Carolina Chickadee) that noted: "*In gardens with less than 70% of native plants by biomass, chickadee populations crashed, because the insects they usually eat cannot live on nonnative trees and flowers".* Applicability of this hypothesis in Nebraska is conjectural, however.

Mountain Chickadee: Three were reported, each at a different location in *Scotts Bluff.* They were at the Smith residence 20 Dec-1 Jan (MS, KD), on Grandview Drive 31 Dec and 2 Jan (EBr, LBr), and at the Croft feeders at least 1 Jan-23 Feb (CCf, m. ob.).

Tufted Titmouse: Two longtime observers (RW, AG) suggested that numbers were "very low" in the state; this situation bears watching since this species and Black-capped Chickadee are closely-related. Otherwise, reports were routine.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Reports were numerous statewide, but numbers were routine.

White-breasted Nuthatch: Further evidence for dispersal of the Pine Ridge subspecies *Sitta carolinensis nelsoni* southward in winter was one at Roscoe, *Keith* 2 Feb (SMl).

Pygmy Nuthatch: Routine reports.

Brown Creeper: A good count was the six at FF 12 Dec (KRo).

Winter Wren: Less than annual away from the southeast in midwinter (Jan-Feb), there were two westerly reports, both carefully checked to eliminate the possibility of Pacific Wren. One was at LM 16-17 Jan (SM, JGJ) and 1-2 were at SR, *Lincoln* 2-10 Feb (SMl recording, BEd photo, JNi photo).

Sedge Wren: An extraordinary record was of one photographed in *Lancaster* 4 Jan (M&CV); it was seen there the next day also (TG). The previous latest date for the state was 20 Nov.

Marsh Wren: One in *Nuckolls* 20-21 Feb, thought to possibly be an eastern (DE, photo), was a rarity there and one of few Feb records for the state away from the North Platte River Valley.

Carolina Wren: Outliers from the expected winter range were one photographed at a Bassett, *Rock* feeder 20 Jan (RHa fide TEL) and another in Kearney, *Buffalo* 20 Jan (JNi).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: Routine reports.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Expected in midwinter only in the southeast, where rare, one was in *Cass* 29 Dec (TJW). Elsewhere, it is less than annual Dec-Mar; singles were found on the North Platte CBC, *Lincoln* 16 Dec (JGJ, JNi) and the HCR CBC, *Harlan* 14 Dec (SBn).

Eastern Bluebird: Less than annual in midwinter (Jan-Feb) in the north central, there were four reports: one was in *Brown* 5 Jan (KCo, JCo), five in *Garfield* 10

Jan (MCl, SBo), one at Fort Niobrara NWR, *Cherry* 14 Jan (MCl, SBo), and four at Chat Canyon, *Cherry* 14 Feb (WF).

Mountain Bluebird: Less than annual in the east, an obliging single was at BOL 4 Jan-22 Feb (LE, m. ob.). A count high of 18 was made on the HCR CBC, *Harlan,* 14 Dec (fide JGJ).

Townsend's Solitaire: Routine reports.

Hermit Thrush: Less than annual in midwinter (Jan-Feb) away from the southeast, one was at SR 2 Feb (SMl).

American Robin: Routine reports.

Varied Thrush: Surprisingly, there were two reported. One that arrived in a Lincoln, *Lancaster* yard 13 Nov remained until 18 Dec (M&CV), and another was "present a few days" through 8 Dec in Grand Island (SM).

Gray Catbird: The only midwinter (9 Nov-late Apr) report was of one on the HCR CBC, *Harlan*, 14 Dec (BP, JNi).

Brown Thrasher: Less than annual in midwinter (Jan-Feb) in the southeast, there were a surprising six reports 1 Jan-22 Feb (m. ob.), the longest-staying one at HL 10 Dec-20 Jan (LKo, LE). Elsewhere there was only one such report, of one in *Furnas* 1 Jan (LO).

Northern Mockingbird: One in *Lancaster* 31 Dec (LE) was tardy; expected late dates are 4-7 Jan.

European Starling: A good midwinter count was the 4000 at GPD 26 Jan (RD).

Bohemian Waxwing: The only report was of one on the HCR CBC, *Harlan,* 14 Dec (MBB, fide JGJ).

Cedar Waxwing: Routine reports.

House Sparrow: Noteworthy counts were the 150 in *Seward* 22 Dec (MBe) and 120 at Roscoe, *Keith* 2 Feb (SMl).

American Pipit: Only the 9th and 10th Dec records were of singles at HL 2 Dec (LE) and on the LM CBC, *Keith* 30 Dec (SJD). There are no Jan records.

Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch: Best count was the 50 at the Henry Road, *Scotts Bluff* roost site 16 Feb (BEd).

Black Rosy-Finch: Only the fifth record for the state was of one at the Henry Road site, *Sioux* 2 Feb (JR, CAl, SBr; photo).

House Finch: Routine reports.

Purple Finch: Westernmost was one at LM 5 Jan (SMl), where rare; this species is less than annual in the Panhandle.

Cassin's Finch: None were reported; this species is rare and erratic but regular in the Panhandle in winter.

Common Redpoll: This was a very low year, with only four reported; one was at WP 13 Jan (SBn, ODa), two in *Sarpy* 21 Jan (CMc), and one in Hastings, *Adams* 13 Feb (PD).

Red Crossbill: This species was scarce also, with only three reports totaling 16 birds. Eight were in *Box Butte* 9 Dec (D&MW), six at a different *Box Butte* location 18 Feb (JFa), and two in *Sarpy* 18 Feb (AWi).

Pine Siskin: Best count was the 200 at an Omaha feeder 22 Jan (fide PS).

American Goldfinch: A record winter tally was the 342 at a Phillips, *Hamilton* feeder 17 Feb (SBu).

Lapland Longspur: Routine reports.

Snow Bunting: This was a low year, with only about 27 reported (m. ob.).

Chipping Sparrow: One in a *Sarpy* yard 24 Dec-12 Jan (L&BP) may not have been successful in its wintering attempt, but 1-2 at Mahoney Park, *Lancaster* 2-14 Feb (M&CV) may have been. One in *Richardson* 7 Dec (WF) was tardy.

Field Sparrow: This species occurs in the south in midwinter but is less than annual. Thus surprisingly, there were three reports, each of two birds, at Swanson Res, *Hitchcock* 15 Dec (JGJ), northwest of Lincoln, *Lancaster* 24 Dec (PLe), and Fort Atkinson SHP, *Washington* 24 Dec (JGJ, MPa).

Fox Sparrow: one in Kearney, *Buffalo* 20 Jan (JNi) was at the western edge of the expected Platte River Valley winter range.

American Tree Sparrow: Routine reports.

Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco: A good non-CBC tally was the 232 at Swanson Res, *Hitchcock* 15 Dec (JGJ).

Dark-eyed (Cassiar) Junco: Routine reports.

Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco: A good count in the east was the 20 in *Cass* 17 Feb (J&LS).

Dark-eyed (Pink-sided) Junco: The only report from the east, where less than annual, was of one photographed in a Lincoln, *Lancaster* yard 21 Jan (M&CV). Although many Oregon-type juncos can resemble Pink-sideds, photographs are showing that a small number of Pink-sideds reach the east on occasion.

Dark-eyed (White-winged) Junco: None were reported; this is an uncommon winter visitor in the west and west-central.

White-crowned Sparrow: Routine reports.

Harris's Sparrow: Midwinter (Dec-Feb) reports away from the expected winter range were of one at the Highway 97 crossing of the Niobrara River, *Cherry* 11 Dec (WF) and one wintering in a Mitchell, *Scotts Bluff* yard 30 Dec-6 Feb (KD).

White-throated Sparrow: Routine reports.

Song Sparrow: One at Dry Creek WMA, *Holt* 1 Feb (WF) was outside the expected midwinter range.

Lincoln's Sparrow: One wintering at an Ashland, *Saunders* feeder was still present 17 Feb (WM).

Swamp Sparrow: Reports away from the southeast in midwinter (Jan-Feb) are less than annual; thus noteworthy was one in *Nuckolls* 20-21 Feb (DE).

Spotted Towhee: Routine reports.

Eastern Towhee: One in *Sarpy* 17 Jan (EB) was unexpected; the species is less than annual in midwinter (Jan-Feb).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: One of only seven midwinter (1 Jan-14 Feb) records were two in *Hall* 27 Jan (RFl photo). One was in Ogallala, *Keith* on the LM CBC 30 Dec (WRS).

Eastern Meadowlark: Previously, the latest documented record had been of one calling in *Nuckolls* 25 Dec 1994 (DE). Although wintering in the southeast has long been suspected, it was not until this winter that it was confirmed by the following reports of vocalizing or photographed Eastern Meadowlarks: one singing on the Branched Oak Lake-Seward CBC, *Lancaster* 15 Dec (RSt), another calling there 21 Jan (M&CV), one calling and singing at Marsh

Wren Community Wetlands, *Lancaster* 4-5 Jan (M&CV), and two photographed and calling near Davey, *Lancaster* 26 Jan (NA).

Western Meadowlark: Rare in midwinter in the north and northwest, two were at Fort Niobrara NWR, *Cherry* 14 Jan (MCl, SBo) and one was in *Brown* 21 Jan (JCo, KCo).

Baltimore Oriole: The seventh Dec-Jan report for this species was of a male and a female/immature at a Grand Island feeder 5 Dec (EWn photos, fide JGJ).

Red-winged Blackbird: Midwinter (Jan-early Feb) reports away from expected winter areas are rare; three were at Fort Robinson SHP, *Dawes* 2 Feb (CCf) and three were at Merriman, *Cherry* 17-18 Feb (BMa).

Brown-headed Cowbird: Routine reports.

Rusty Blackbird: Apparently the first Feb record as far west as North Platte, *Lincoln* was of one photographed there 10 Feb (BEd).

Brewer's Blackbird: Less than annual in midwinter (Jan through mid-Feb), the three reports were among fewer than 20 such records for the state. Apparently wintering at Garden County Refuge near Lewellen, *Garden* were 30 on 5 Jan (SMl, DE) and a surprising 130 on 2 Feb (SMl). The third report was of one photographed in North Platte, *Lincoln* 12 Jan (BEd).

Common Grackle: Northerly for the date was one in *Boone* 29 Dec (JTh).

Great-tailed Grackle: Best wintering flock count was the 160 in Lexington, *Dawson* 16 Jan (JGJ).

Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler: Northerly for the date was one in *Brown* 27 Jan (JCo).

Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler: Only the fourth midwinter (Dec-Feb) record for this species, all from the LM area, was one at Cedar View Campground 5 Jan (SMl, DE).

Northern Cardinal: Routine reports.

CORRECTION: On page 167 of the December 2018 issue of *The Nebraska Bird Review* (Vol. 86 No. 4), the Palm Warbler species account was printed incorrectly. The correct account is as follows:

Palm Warbler: One at FF 1 Sep (KHa, BWa) was early, and one in Douglas 17 Oct (JR) was late. One banded and photographed in Dawes 6 Oct (CMu) provided a less-than-annual record there.

2018-2019 Christmas Bird Counts

by Don Paseka

Eighteen counts were held during the 2018-19 Christmas Bird Count season. This is two more than were done last season, which was the first time that as many as sixteen counts were held. This year no counts were postponed or cancelled, and the Beaver Valley Count was revived after a four year hiatus.

Twelve of the counts were done during the first week of the count period. While the conditions for these early counts were mild and dry, heavy precipitation in late fall coupled with an early onset of cold weather in the first part of December resulted in little to no snow cover or open standing water, but almost all the springs and running water were open. A notable exception to this was the Harlan County count since the lake is far enough south to have remained at least partially open. By December 22 when the DeSoto count was held, there was much more open standing water. The counts done in the latter part of the count period also experienced dry conditions but with more seasonable temperatures.

In all, 143 species were tallied, which is the fourth highest number, behind 149 counted in 2010, 147 in 2015 and 144 in 2018. The 436,316 individual birds is the second highest number behind only the all-time high of 652,936 individuals from 1977 when an estimated 500,000 Red-winged Blackbirds were counted in the North Platte circle.

Twelve species had the second highest counts ever, while 10 tied or set new highs. Some of these can be attributed to the increase in the number of counts being done in the past few years, but even so, ten species were still found in all circles. Thirty-one species were counted in only one circle with twenty of those being single birds.

Twenty-eight species of Anseriformes were counted. The 750 Greater White-fronted Geese found at DeSoto alone beat the old record of 645 from 1991, but adding in the birds from seven other circles, including 193 from Omaha, yielded a new high count of 1,064 White-fronts. The total of 206 Trumpeter Swans found in ten circles was second only to 316 found in 2016. The expected dabbling ducks were all present in unremarkable numbers, but a nice surprise was the five American Black Ducks found at DeSoto. Although they were found in the Iowa part of the refuge, it was the most counted since five were found in 1989. The all-time high count for this species is 19 from 1980.

As for the diving ducks, no scoters were found this year, but the single Long-tailed Duck from Harlan County and lone Barrow's Goldeneye from North Platte were good finds. Harlan County also produced 31,229 Common Mergansers. The Common Mergansers from 12 other circles brings the total to 37,781, which is second only to the 48,344 from 1997. However, Ruddy Duck was missed for the first time since 2000.

Sharp-tailed Grouse was another species missed this year that is usually found and was last missed in 2010. However, the 337 Greater Prairie Chickens, 228 of which were counted at Beaver Valley were the best count since 2009 when the high count of 469 was established.

A pair of water related-species set new second-highest counts. The total 9 American White Pelicans found at Branched Oak, Calamus, Lincoln, Harlan County and Lower Platte is second only to the 11 found in 1997. The 54 Great Blue Herons counted in 11 circles were second only to the 58 found in 2011.

Diurnal raptors had a good season. Bald Eagles were found in every circle except Harrison. The total of 620 birds beat the old high of 576 from 2014. Northern Harriers were found in 16 circles producing a total of 177 birds which beats the previous high of 149 from last year.

A real surprise was a lone Turkey Vulture parked in a tree in Fontenelle Forest on the Omaha count. This species has been previously counted four times; singles were found in 1988 and 1990, while three were reported in both 1986 and 1987.

Cooper's Hawks were found in 15 circles, and the 43 counted this year ties with the high count from last year. This season, single Red-shouldered Hawks were counted at Lincoln, Branched Oak and Harlan County. This total of three now shares the high count with 1994 and 1995 when all the birds were found at Omaha. This marks the first time Red-shouldered Hawks have been counted in multiple circles in one season. It seems that more Red-tailed Hawks are hanging around for the CBCs. The 983 birds counted this year set a new high count that handily beat the previous high count of 790 from last year. Rough-legged Hawks were found in all but one circle with a total of 143 birds, second only to the 184 birds counted in 2013.

Sandhill Cranes are counted every few years, sometimes numbering in the thousands. This year's total of six is unremarkable, except that one of those was unexpectedly found at Indian Cave.

White-winged Doves were found for the fifth straight year with three at Lake McConaughy and a single at North Platte, but the count week bird in the Ames circle is the first report from the eastern end of the state for a CBC.

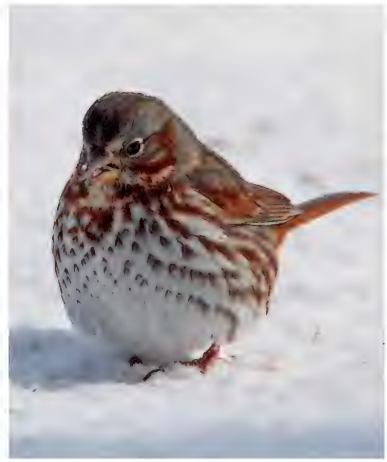
Most of the owl numbers were unremarkable and the only Snowy Owl counted was a single in the Ponca circle. However, Barred Owls were counted in 10 circles including three at Harlan County totaling a new high count of 27 edging out the previous high count of 26 from last year.

In the Piciforme department, Red-headed Woodpeckers had a good year with 148 reported. The all-time high count for this species is 232 from 1971, making this year's total only the fourth highest. It is noteworthy, however, that, while the bulk of this year's birds were found at expected eastern locations, singles were found at Beaver

<Continued on Page 25>

Below: LeConte's Sparrow, Little Salt Fork Marsh, Lancaster Co., 22 Oct. 2018. Photo by Ruth Stearns.

Below: Harris's Sparrow and White-crowned Sparrow, Polk Co., 29 Oct. 2018. Photo by Jan Johnson.



Above: Fox Sparrow, Mahoney State Park, Cass Co., 25 Feb 2019. Photo by Elizabeth Winter.

Above: Vesper Sparrow, Chimney Rock Road, Morrill Co., 18 Sept. 2017. Photo by Clem Klaphake.

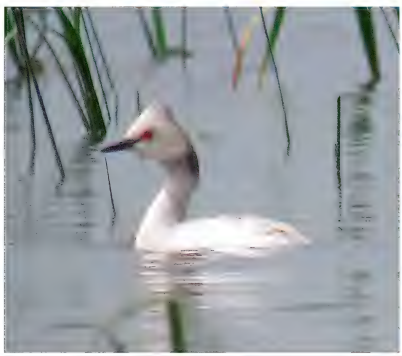
Above: Juvenile Cooper's Hawk, midtown Omaha, Douglas Co,. 18 Aug. 2014. Photo by Craig Crews.

Above: Adult Bald Eagle, Chalco Hills Recreation Area, Sarpy Co., 25 Jan. 2019. Photo by Mike Schilmoeller.

Above: White-winged Dove, photographer's yard, Wahoo, Saunders Co., 19 May 2019. Photo by Joe Freeborn.

Sharp-tailed Grouse displaying, Calamus, Loup Co., 29 March 2018. Photo by Deb Miller.

Left: Leucistic Red-tailed Hawk, west of Sutherland bridge on North River Road, Lincoln Co., 17 Jan. 2019. Photo by Boni Edwards.



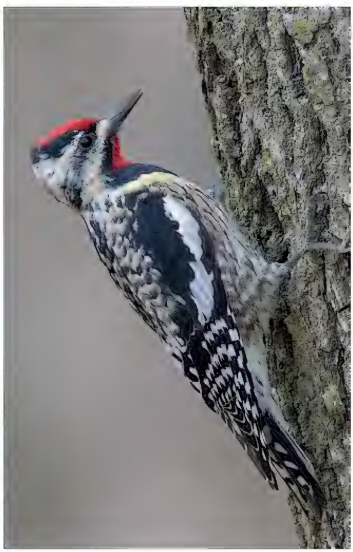
Above: Leucistic Eared Grebe, Harvard WPA, Clay Co., 17 June 2019. Photo by Joel Jorgensen.

Above: Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Johnson Co., 8 June 2019. Photo by Babs Padelford.

American White Pelicans, Pawnee SRA, Lancaster Co., 3 Apr. 2019. Photo by Rita Flohr.

Above: Eastern Bluebirds and American Goldfinches, Ridgeway Rd, Bay Hills, Plattsmouth, Cass Co., 30 Dec. 2013. Photo by Duane Schwery.

White-eyed Vireo, Walnut Grove Park riparian area south of pond, Douglas Co., 5 May 2019. Photo by Rick Schmid.



Above: Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy Co., 7 April 2019. Photo by Brian Peterson.

Pacific Loon, Lake Cunningham, Douglas Co., 21 Oct. 2018. Photo by Loren Padelford.

Below: Little Blue Herons, Holmes Lake, Lincoln, Lancaster Co., 2 May 2019. Photo by John Carlini.

Above: American Bittern, Springer WPA, Hamilton Co., 10 May 2019. Photo by Rita Flohr.

Above: Long-billed Curlew, Crescent Lake NWR, Garden Co., 25 May 2019. Photo by John Carlini.

Left: American Avocets, Lake North, Platte Co., 17 may 2019. Photo by Rita Flohr.

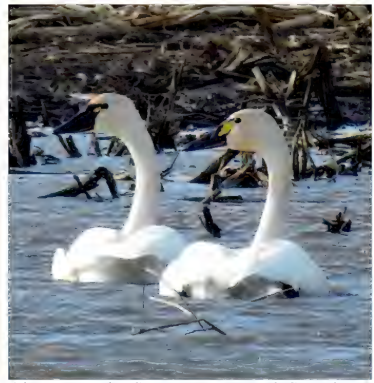
Right: Virginia Rail, North River Road NW of North Platte, Lincoln Co., 7 June 2019. Photo by Boni Edwards.

Below: Snowy Plover, Smith WPA, Clay Co., 2 May 2019. Photo by Joel Jorgensen.

Above: Spotted Sandpiper, American Heroes Park Nature Trail, Sarpy Co., 14 May 2018. Photo by Loren Padelford.

Left: Ruddy Turnstone, Lake North/Babcock, Platte Co., 16 May 2019. Photo by Elizabeth Winter.

Above: Trumpeter Swans, La Platte Bottoms, Sarpy Co., 2 Jan. 2019. Photo by Babs Padelford.



Above: Tundra Swans, near Mead, Saunders Co., 27 Mar. 2019. Photo by Gary Roberts.

White-winged Scoter, Lake Wanahoo, Saunders Co., 13 Nov. 2018. Photo by Phil Swanson.

Above: Ruddy Duck, Capitol Beach Lake, Lincoln, Lancaster Co., May 2019. Photo by Esa Jarvi.

Left:
Pied-billed Grebe with young, Tamora Marsh, Seward Co., 9 Sept. 2008. Photo by Phil Swanson.

Above: Nashville Warblers, photographer's yard, Papillion, Sarpy Co., 8 Sept. 2019. Photo by Phil Swanson.

Above: Louisiana Waterthrush, near Little Blue River NW of Fairbury, Jefferson Co., 18 May 2019. Photo by Rachel Hall.

Right: Ruby-throated Hummingbird, midtown Omaha, Douglas Co., 24 Sept. 2017. Photo by Craig Crews.

Right: Kentucky Warbler, Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy Co., 11 May 2019. Photo by Brian Peterson.

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2018-2019 Christmas Bird Counts

Valley, Norfolk and Lake McConaughy. The 139 Hairy Woodpeckers tallied is second only to the 150 found in 2013. Multiple Pileated Woodpeckers were counted in the three Missouri River circles for a new high count of 14, which beats the previous high of 12 from just last year.

Prairie Falcon also set a new high count. The total of 15 birds found in nine circles beats the old high of 12 from 1995.

As far as noteworthy corvids go, the single Steller's Jay counted at Scottsbluff represented only the fifth time that they have been counted on a Nebraska CBC. The high count for this species is 12 birds, also found in Scottsbluff, in 1969, but one or two birds were also reported in 1973, 1996 and 2012. Every circle except Crawford had Blue Jays this year for a total of 1220 birds, which is the best total since 1994 when 1310 were counted. Black-billed Magpie numbers recovered slightly from last year's all-time low of 12 to this year's 39, which is more consistent with their numbers for the past decade.

Red-breasted Nuthatches were counted in every circle this year except Crawford (go figure!) resulting in a total of 173 birds, which is second only to the 194 found in 2007. This year a single Mountain Chickadee was found at Scottsbluff. This species has been found six times in this millennium but only five times in all the previous years. Carolina Wrens also produced a second best high count of 74, but well off last year's record high of 126 birds. Eastern Bluebirds likewise produced a second highest count with the count of 630, only slightly behind the count of 637 from 2015.

The lone Gray Catbird found at Harlan County marks only the fifth time that this species has been found on a CBC, but the frequency of their sightings seems to be increasing. The first one was a single in 1987, followed by two more in 2002 and singles in both 2009 and 2016. A single American Pipit was found at Lake McConaughy this year, which at first glance seems unremarkable since they have been found in single digit numbers three times previously in the last five years. However, there were only three sightings in the previous 50 years.

In the sparrow department, Song Sparrows were found in 14 circles and had their third best year with 197 tallied. The high count for this species is from 1994 when 209 were found. White-throated Sparrows set a new high count of 125, beating the old high 96 from 2015.

While not anywhere near the record number from 1977, the total of 143,422 Red-winged Blackbirds is the best count since 260,090 were counted in1984. Great-tailed Grackles had the second best count with 427 birds, the bulk of which (301) were found at Grand Island. The high count for this species is 664 from 2009. Finally, a vocalizing Eastern Meadowlark was heard by a reliable observer at the Branched Oak count. Two more were reported without details from the Grand Island circle.

2018-19 Christmas Bird Count

	Ames	Beaver Valley	BOL - Seward	Calamus-Loup	Crawford	DeSoto-Boyer	Grand Island	Harlan Co.	Harrison	Indian Cave
Snow Goose	2					2,007		10,595		230
Ross's Goose						2		180		
Gr. White-fr. Goose				7		750		1		
Cackling Goose	11		4	500		9	2	34		
Canada Goose	3,318		1,612	4,450		16,302	3,738	2,016		106
Trumpeter Swan		8	3	6		83	1			
Tundra Swan										
Wood Duck							6	2		
Blue-winged Teal										
Northern Shoveler							40	10		
Gadwall			2			1		9		
American Wigeon						4		2		
Mallard	3,445	61	373	470		6,057	811	1,074		200
Am. Black Duck						5				
Northern Pintail				1		9		21		
Green-winged Teal			3			1		47		
Canvasback										
Redhead						2		1		
Ring-necked Duck						31				
Greater Scaup										
Lesser Scaup	1					11		1		
Long-tailed Duck								1		
Bufflehead										
Common Goldeneye				54		187	45	88		4
Barrow's Goldeneye										
Hooded Merganser				1				2		
Common Merganser	29		19	312		201	2	31,229		1
Red-br. Merganser								2		
duck sp.	100									
Northern Bobwhite	24	17	45	15				10		
Ring-necked Pheasant	9	17		2	1	16		6		
Gr. Prairie-Chicken		228		8			52	1		
Wild Turkey	cw		18	77	48	190	66	24		

2018-2019 Christmas Bird Count

	Ames	Beaver Valley	BOL - Seward	Calamus-Loup	Crawford	DeSoto-Boyer	Grand Island	Harlan Co.	Harrison	Indian Cave
Pied-billed Grebe								1		
Horned Grebe										
Red-necked Grebe										
Western Grebe										
Clark's Grebe										
Rock Pigeon	104	27	48	23	134	258	345	341		
Eur. Collared-Dove	164	18	33	21	93	8	311	31	38	2
White-winged Dove	cw									
Mourning Dove	67		42			45	8	37		4
Virginia Rail										
American Coot						5	3	11		
Sandhill Crane							5			1
Killdeer										
Wilson's Snipe		3						1		
Bonaparte's Gull								1		
Mew Gull										
Ring-billed Gull	3		6	3				245		
California Gull										
Herring Gull			6					151		
Iceland (Thayer's) Gull								1		
Les. Black-backed Gull										
Glaucous Gull								1		
gull sp.				1						
Common Loon										
Double-cr. Cormorant						1		17		
Am. White Pelican			1	2				1		
Great Blue Heron	6	2	1	7		2		8		
Turkey Vulture										
Golden Eagle								1	2	
Northern Harrier	7	2	25	6	2	11	30	44		2
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2		3	2		1	1	3		
Cooper's Hawk	1	1	2	5		2	1	5		1
Accipiter sp.			1							

2018-2019 Christmas Bird Count

	Ames	Beaver Valley	BOL - Seward	Calamus-Loup	Crawford	DeSoto-Boyer	Grand Island	Harlan Co.	Harrison	Indian Cave
Bald Eagle	13	5	13	55	3	99	13	171		40
Red-shouldered Hawk			1					1		
Red-tailed Hawk	77	15	105	21	4	135	30	103	4	37
Rough-legged Hawk	5	6	12	8	7	1	13	12	15	
Ferruginous Hawk					2					
Buteo sp.						7				
hawk sp.										
Eastern Screech-Owl	4			1		1	5	9		
Great Horned Owl	4	2	10	1		5	1	12		5
Snowy Owl										
Barred Owl	2		3			5		3		1
Long-eared Owl						2				
Short-eared Owl										
owl sp.										
Belted Kingfisher	3		1	2		1	3	2		
Red-hea. Woodpecker		1				29				38
Red-bel. Woodpecker	29	4	46	7		96	11	29		27
Yellow-bel. Sapsucker	1						2	2		
Downy Woodpecker	37	5	28	14	1	78	32	27	2	4
Hairy Woodpecker	6	1	11	4		19	9	5	1	5
Northern Flicker	27	5	71	42	6	44	34	51	4	7
Red-shafted			3			4				
Red x Yellow-sh.									2	
Yellow-shafted			20			40				
unspecified	27	5	48	42	6		34	51	2	7
Pileated Woodpecker						5				3
American Kestrel	2	3	8	10	5	12	5	2	2	1
Merlin	1			1		1				
Peregrine Falcon										
Prairie Falcon			3	2	1		1	2		
Northern Shrike	1	2	5	6	1	3	1	1	2	
Steller's Jay										
Blue Jay	80	13	105	11		164	41	37	1	45

2018-2019 Christmas Bird Count

	Ames	Beaver Valley	BOL - Seward	Calamus-Loup	Crawford	DeSoto-Boyer	Grand Island	Harlan Co.	Harrison	Indian Cave
Black-billed Magpie					2					
American Crow	24	33	123	3,500	19	73	22	80	3	12
Horned Lark	31	1,012	172	6		16	151	92	58	
Black-cap. Chickadee	81		31	7	9	98	21	10	12	5
Mountain Chickadee										
Tufted Titmouse						9				6
Red-br. Nuthatch	8	2	13	3		14	7	2	2	26
White-br. Nuthatch	53	4	50	7		91	21	31	3	
Pygmy Nuthatch									5	
Brown Creeper	2	1	4	2		4	10		1	
Winter Wren	2		1			1				
Marsh Wren						1	1	1		
Carolina Wren	4		3			8		2		
Golden-cr. Kinglet	2		2			3		2		
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	cw							1		
Eastern Bluebird	24		201	51		34	1	37		3
Mountain Bluebird								18		
Townsend's Solitaire					3				6	
Hermit Thrush			1			1				
American Robin	4	55	326	1,942	4	44	82	1,022	14	
Gray Catbird								1		
European Starling	1,323	225	218	600	307	1,098	835	1,313	175	80
Bohemian Waxwing								1		
Cedar Waxwing	16		142	40		139	88	127	9	2
House Sparrow	346	78	236	120	84	249	258	116	9	139
American Pipit										
House Finch	34	10	112	60	2	20	108	46		1
Purple Finch	2		5	31		22	23	2		3
Red Crossbill										
Pine Siskin			8		97			1	32	
American Goldfinch	83	22	214	212	214	158	209	102	43	58
Lapland Longspur	540	18	7	1		250		136	7	
Snow Bunting										

2018-2019 Christmas Bird Count

	Ames	Beaver Valley	BOL - Seward	Calamus-Loup	Crawford	DeSoto-Boyer	Grand Island	Harlan Co.	Harrison	Indian Cave
Fox Sparrow	cw							2		
Am. Tree Sparrow	69	98	303	74	42	380	181	1,391	4	
Dark-eyed Junco	227	181	277	52	52	370	204	494	6	45
Slate-colored			57		10	3			2	
Oregon			1		5					
Pink-sided	1					37				
unspecified subsp.	226	181	219	52	37	330	204	494	4	45
White-cr. Sparrow			1			1		123		
Harris's Sparrow	16		12	14		9	22	166		2
White-th. Sparrow	5		34	1		23	3			
Song Sparrow	9		23	1		20	14	39		
Lincoln's Sparrow						1				
Swamp Sparrow	cw					1		3		
sparrow sp.			8			30				
Spotted Towhee	1						2	2		
Yellow-hea. Blackbird										
Eastern Meadowlark			1				2			
Western Meadowlark	12		2							
meadowlark sp.	69	8	98	2		136	203	411		5
Red-winged Blackbird	155	1	144	30		23	1,019	666		
Brown-headed Cowbird								4		
Rusty Blackbird	2		4			39	12	31		
Brewer's Blackbird										
Common Grackle	1	1					51			
Great-tailed Grackle							301			
blackbird sp	45									
Yel.-rump. Warbler			19	2		1		13		
Northern Cardinal	55	7	96	18		139	55	39		21
TOTAL SPECIES	61	40	66	60	26	80	60	98	27	37
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	10,830	2,202	5,560	12,934	1,143	30,414	9,574	53,252	460	1,172

2018-19 Christmas Bird Count

	L. McConaughy	Lincoln	Lower Platte	Norfolk	North Platte	Omaha	Ponca SP	Scottsbluff	TOTAL
Snow Goose	6,333	1	4,728	11	1	27,136	14	1	51,059
Ross's Goose	341		45			7			575
Gr. White-fr. Goose	40	49	22		2	193			1,064
Cackling Goose	1,692	76	53	3	33	131	50	225	2,823
Canada Goose	5,251	8,438	9,672	2,250	3,247	6,672	95	6,668	73,835
Trumpeter Swan	94		1		2	4	4		206
Tundra Swan	1								1
Wood Duck	3	2			11				24
Blue-winged Teal					1				1
Northern Shoveler					11			63	124
Gadwall	23	3			19			3	60
American Wigeon	2				17		1	137	163
Mallard	9,164	623	1,296	282	4,765	80	301	535	29,537
Am. Black Duck									5
Northern Pintail	4		3		48	1			87
Green-winged Teal	78	1	42		18	40			230
Canvasback	21			1					22
Redhead	6	10	1						20
Ring-necked Duck	9	2			95			29	166
Greater Scaup	4				1				5
Lesser Scaup	22		1	1	2				39
Long-tailed Duck									1
Bufflehead	96								96
Common Goldeneye	246	6	6	12	84	51	47	3	833
Barrow's Goldeneye					1				1
Hooded Merganser	2		2		1				8
Common Merganser	5,700	6	103		31	123	25		37,781
Red-br. Merganser	27								29
duck sp.		4				18			122
Northern Bobwhite		34		10					155
Ring-necked Pheasant	11	9	2	18	11		30	3	135
Gr. Prairie-Chicken	6				42				337
Wild Turkey		16	8		253	114	34	49	897

2018-2019 Christmas Bird Count

	L. McConaughy	Lincoln	Lower Platte	Norfolk	North Platte	Omaha	Ponca SP	Scottsbluff	TOTAL
Pied-billed Grebe	1	1					2		5
Horned Grebe	3								3
Red-necked Grebe	2								2
Western Grebe	79								79
Clark's Grebe	1								1
Rock Pigeon	173	874	54	708	40	464	64	527	4,184
Eur. Collared-Dove	205	74	97	188	228	28	19	345	1,903
White-winged Dove	3				1				4
Mourning Dove	2	151	58	1	9	56	3		483
Virginia Rail	2								2
American Coot	5		4	2	10				40
Sandhill Crane									6
Killdeer	3								3
Wilson's Snipe	2				1			3	10
Bonaparte's Gull									1
Mew Gull	1								1
Ring-billed Gull	1,308	177			3	4		4	1,753
California Gull	7								7
Herring Gull	330	13			3				503
Iceland (Thayer's) Gull	2								3
Les. Black-backed Gull	4								4
Glaucous Gull									1
gull sp.		1							2
Common Loon	1								1
Double-cr. Cormorant	1								19
Am. White Pelican		1	4						9
Great Blue Heron	9	8	1		6	4			54
Turkey Vulture						1			1
Golden Eagle	2								5
Northern Harrier	19	9		2	6	4	6	2	177
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	7	1			2			24
Cooper's Hawk	4	5	3		4	5	2	2	43
Accipiter sp.									1

2018-2019 Christmas Bird Count

	L. McConaughy	Lincoln	Lower Platte	Norfolk	North Platte	Omaha	Ponca SP	Scottsbluff	TOTAL
Bald Eagle	36	6	32	22	31	36	9	36	620
Red-shouldered Hawk		1							3
Red-tailed Hawk	42	109	92	36	28	108	22	15	983
Rough-legged Hawk	11	4	2	7	4	2	19	15	143
Ferruginous Hawk	1								3
Buteo sp.								2	9
hawk sp.		3							3
Eastern Screech-Owl	2		1	3	1		1		28
Great Horned Owl	7	6	2	16	1	3	5	3	83
Snowy Owl							1		1
Barred Owl		4	2	1		2	4		27
Long-eared Owl				1					3
Short-eared Owl	1								1
owl sp.		3							3
Belted Kingfisher	3	15	4		1	6		1	42
Red-hea. Woodpecker	1			1		78			148
Red-bel. Woodpecker	3	60	41	17	9	58	19		456
Yellow-bel. Sapsucker		1	3		1	1			11
Downy Woodpecker	17	78	62	21	16	95	13	2	532
Hairy Woodpecker	9	12	10	18	4	19	4	2	139
Northern Flicker	28	32	33	21	15	12	9	20	461
Red-shafted	7	2			1		1	2	20
Red x Yellow-sh.	2							2	6
Yellow-shafted	12	17			1		8	4	102
unspecified	7	13	33	21	13	12		12	333
Pileated Woodpecker						6			14
American Kestrel	11	15	3	10	12	14	3	15	133
Merlin	1		1		2				7
Peregrine Falcon						1			1
Prairie Falcon	1			1	2			2	15
Northern Shrike	4	3		2	1		1		33
Steller's Jay								1	1
Blue Jay	25	294	153	33	13	104	39	62	1,220

2018-2019 Christmas Bird Count

	L. McConaughy	Lincoln	Lower Platte	Norfolk	North Platte	Omaha	Ponca SP	Scottsbluff	TOTAL
Black-billed Magpie	17			1				19	39
American Crow	15	77	86	33	5	82	17	4	4,208
Horned Lark	575	5	45	40	165		8	90	2,466
Black-cap. Chickadee	1	139	68	23	27	94	37	24	687
Mountain Chickadee								1	1
Tufted Titmouse			19			5			39
Red-br. Nuthatch	6	30	17	14	12	5	4	8	173
White-br. Nuthatch	5	128	68	76	19	134	25	4	719
Pygmy Nuthatch								2	7
Brown Creeper	2	6	3	9	5	8			57
Winter Wren						1			5
Marsh Wren	5				1				9
Carolina Wren		9	17	1		30			74
Golden-cr. Kinglet	7	14	3	4	6				43
Ruby-cr. Kinglet			1		1				3
Eastern Bluebird	22	44	83		13	64	53		630
Mountain Bluebird	43				40				101
Townsend's Solitaire	27				4			4	44
Hermit Thrush									2
American Robin	995	363	1	13	112	4	58	695	5,734
Gray Catbird									1
European Starling	1,176	1,228	449	3,514	25,518	2,040	245	690	41,034
Bohemian Waxwing									1
Cedar Waxwing	6	52	8	18	27	2	15	2	693
House Sparrow	93	362	328	735	137	251	86	231	3,858
American Pipit	1								1
House Finch	27	93	27	32	67	32	8	214	893
Purple Finch		1		2	2	6			99
Red Crossbill								1	1
Pine Siskin	3	14	1	6	3	8	4	284	461
American Goldfinch	139	162	68	92	22	121	16	253	2,188
Lapland Longspur	368		25		12				1,364
Snow Bunting	14								14

2018-2019 Christmas Bird Count

	L. McConaughy	Lincoln	Lower Platte	Norfolk	North Platte	Omaha	Ponca SP	Scottsbluff	TOTAL
Fox Sparrow		1	1				1		5
Am. Tree Sparrow	153	136	276	118	113	105	156	29	3,628
Dark-eyed Junco	420	559	773	243	156	278	94	282	4,713
Slate-colored	161	181	771		148			152	1,485
Oregon	18	1	2		5			18	50
Pink-sided	7				1			11	57
unspecified subsp.	234	377		243	2	278	94	101	3,121
White-cr. Sparrow			1	1	9	1	11	54	202
Harris's Sparrow		27	7		2	11	2	1	291
White-th. Sparrow		32	12			15			125
Song Sparrow	4	26	17	1	3	36	3	1	197
Lincoln's Sparrow									1
Swamp Sparrow	2								6
sparrow sp.									38
Spotted Towhee			1						6
Yellow-hea. Blackbird	1						1		2
Eastern Meadowlark									3
Western Meadowlark		31				3			48
meadowlark sp.	40	110	35	74	32	47	72		1,342
Red-winged Blackbird	138,554	215	263	37	507	226	1,500	82	143,422
Brown-headed Cowbird	22		8	6					40
Rusty Blackbird			8						96
Brewer's Blackbird					25				25
Common Grackle		1		2					56
Great-tailed Grackle					125	1			427
blackbird sp									45
Yel.-rump. Warbler	12	4	17		1	3			72
Northern Cardinal	14	148	175	49	25	132	6		979
TOTAL SPECIES	101	69	72	56	86	65	53	52	147
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	174,319	15,264	19,559	8,843	36,344	39,428	3,268	11,750	436,316

2018-2019 CBC Participants

Ames Charlotte Croshaw, Larry Einemann, William Flack, Joe Gubanyi, Jane Hollst, Paula Hoppe, Clem Klaphake, Don Paseka (compiler), Janis Paseka, Jack Phillips, Neal Ratzlaff, Gary Roberts, Ken Shuster, Ruth Stearns, Jerry Toll, Lorri Urban (15 + 1 feeder watcher)

Beaver Valley Cody Baker, William Flack, Dave Heidt, Jason Thiele (compiler), Claudelle Thieman, Duane Wolff (5 + 1 feeder watcher)

Branched Oak–Seward Dennis Bauers, Matthew Beisel, Eugene Brott, Norma Brott, John Carlini, Bonnie Daenzer, Gil Daenzer, Cheryl Dickerson, Larry Einemann, Jennifer Fruend, Linda Gierke, Doug Gremel, Vikki Gremel, Joseph Gubanyi (compiler), Virginia Hughes, Esa Jarvi, Amber Jones, Kermit Krieser, Mary Krieser, Steve Kruse, Thomas Labedz, Daniel Leger, Mike Mattson, Don McKibbin, LaQuita McKibbin, Ingrid Minchow, Mark Minchow, Marli Ockander, Don Paseka, Janis Paseka, Brian Peterson, Gary Roberts, Erin Rowland, Brisco Schaefer, Shari Schwartz, Ruth Stearns, Mary Steinbeck, Thomas Walker, Sue Wickersham, Jo Worm (22 + 18 feeder watchers)

Calamus-Loup William Flack, Kathi Gerten, Robert Gerten, Robin Harding, David Heidt (compiler), Steve Morris, John Murphy, Jonathan Nikkila, Andrew Pierson, Lanny Randolph, Kent Skaggs, Duane Wolff (12)

Crawford Kathy DeLara, Bruce Walgren (compiler), Donna Walgren (3)

DeSoto Susan Allen, Elliott Bedows, Ruth Bentzinger, Scott Bradley, Myrna Brown, Amy Campagna, Julianne Carborelle, Peter Carborelle, Amanda Dague, Carla Delucchi, Linda Ferring, Katie Gooby, Suzanne Gucciardo, Sylvia Hanson, Kadynn Hatfield, Brad Lorentzen, Kate Murphy, Don Paseka, Janis Paseka, Cathy Prettyman, Kathleen Pyper, Peter Rea, Sandy Reinken, Allen Reyer, Cindy Reyer, Abbe Richardson, Hugh Rieck, Gary Roberts, Rick Schmid, Heidi Swanson, Bethany Thornton, Jerry Toll (compiler), Bobby Walz, Andrea Wiggins, Everett Wiggins (35)

Grand Island Nicole Arcilla, Cathy Aubushon, Colleen Babcock, Pat Carlson, Andy Caven, Colleen Childers, Gay Crandell, Tony Curtis, Jim Etherton, Doug Ferguson, Blake Hatfield, Billie Herron, Bob Hausmann, Mary Ann Kalinay, Lynette Keeshan, Jerry Koepke, Ron Kruse, Anne Kruse, Connie McCartney (compiler), Steve Morris, Vicki Orr, Rick Rasmussen, Patricia Smith, Alyx Vogel, Josh Wiese, Chuck Witter, Nell Witter (19 + 8 feeder watchers)

Harlan County Mary Bomberger Brown, Stephen Brenner, Kenny Dinan, Lauren Dinan, Andrew Furman, Robin Harding, Joel Jorgensen (compiler), Bette Klaphake, Clem Klaphake, Jonathan Nikkila, Brian Peterson, Lanny Randolph, Ross Silcock, T.J. Walker (14)

Harrison Kathy DeLara, Boni Edwards, Kylee Edwards (3) [Bruce Walgren, compiler]

Indian Cave Judy Bouma, Kevin Holliday (compiler), Laurence Falk, Nick Fischer, Cortisa Handley, Adam Jones, Susan Quinn, Tim Wittwer (8)

Lake McConaughy Wendy Becker, Elliott Bedows, Mary Bomberger Brown, Kathy DeLara, Lena E. Dinsmore, Stephen J. Dinsmore (compiler), Boni Edwards, Luke Hamilton, Alice Heckman, Jim Ochsner, Ross Silcock (10 + 1 feeder watcher)

Lincoln Dennis Bauers, Collen Beard, Keegan Beisel, Matt Beisel, Emily Binder, Andrea Bornemeier, Michael Scott Bradley, Anita Breckbill, Linda R. Brown, Mary Bomberger Brown, Jan Cade, Pat Cole, Barbara J. DiBernard, Larry Einemann, Andrea Faas, Joe Gubanyi, Sue Guild, Pat Halderman, Linda Helzer, Norm Helzer, Carol Hinkle, Esa Jarvi, Paul Johnsgard, Jenny Johnson, Michelle Johnson, Amber Jones, Tim Knott, Zoe Kraus, Thomas Labedz, Dan Leger, Alex Lehmann, Rachael Lehmann, Dwain Leonhardt, Leanne Manning, Steve Martindale, Bob McCollough, Lynn McCown, Bruce Mellberg, Marli Ocklander, Anne Pamperl, Theresa Pella, Linda Plock, Kevin Poague, Ken Reitan, Jason St. Sauver (compiler), Chris Sommerich, Ruth Stearns, Sheila Stevens, April Stevenson, Anita Stougard, Ned Stringham, Moni Usasz, Carol Wagner, Kelly Wurzer (50 + 4 feeder watchers)

Lower Platte River Mary Denny, Larry Einemann, Katie Gooby, Joel Jorgensen (compiler), Babs Padelford, Loren Padelford, Don Paseka, Janis Paseka, Rachel Paseka, Theresa Pella, Neal Ratzlaff, Hugh Rieck, Gary Roberts, Shari Schwartz, Heidi Swanson, Thomas Walker (16 + 1 feeder watcher)

Norfolk Marc Bathke, Ed Brogie, Chyanne Cole, Morgan Compson, Frank Dolezal, William Flack, Brianna Green, David Heidt (compiler), John Manning, Landon Monteith, Seamus O'Keefe, Landen Redding, Rick Schmid, Gary Schuurmans, Tate Simonsen, Bailey Taylor, Alexander Timm, Caroline Timm, Paul Timm, Duane Wolff (compiler) (20 + 2 feeder watchers)

North Platte Wendy Becker, Monte Brown, Peyton Burt, Virginia Clark, Boni Edwards, Julie Geiser, Robin Harding, Joel Jorgensen, Jonathan Nikkila, Jim Petersen, Lanny Randolph, Thomas J. Walker (compiler) (11 + 1 feeder watcher)

Omaha Brett Anderson, Elliott Bedows, Mary Clausen, Ann Duey, Dave Duey, Nelli Falzgraf, Kadynn Hatfield, Jennifer Janes, Clem Klaphake, Jim Kovanda, Sandy Kovanda, Catherine Kuper, Steve Lamphere, Julius Lehosky, Babs Padelford, Loren Padelford, Don Paseka, Janis Paseka, Deb Ratzlaff, Neal Ratzlaff, Al Reyer, Cindy Reyer, Jean Richter, Gary Roberts, Arch Robison, Rick Schmid (compiler), Steve Schmitt, Eric Scholar, Phil Swanson, Bethany Thornton, Jerry Toll, Bob Wells (31 + 1 feeder watchers)

Ponca Vern Cummins, Warren Dunkle, Jeff Fields, Holly Green, Bill Huser (compiler), Keith Jarvi, Jan Johnson, Maria Korver (compiler), Jan Null, Scott Oligmueller, Brady Peterson, Jerry Probst, Rob Towler, Jerry Von Ehwegen (12 + 2 feeder watchers)

Scottsbluff Kathy DeLara, Don Gentry, Meredyth Gentry, Luke Hamilton, Alice Kenitz (compiler), Amber Schiltz, Gwen Smith, Marie Smith, Rod Smith (9 + 1 feeder watcher)

2018-2019 CBC Site Data									
					Total Party	Low	High		
	Date	Species	Individuals	Observers	Hours[d]	Temp.	Temp.	Sky	Precipitation
Ames	18 Dec	61	10,830	15 + 1	53	23	46	pt. cloudy	none
Beaver Valley	29 Dec	40	2,202	5 + 1	12	1	28	clear	none
Branched Oak-Seward	15 Dec	66	5,560	22 + 18	65	19	52	clear	none
Calamus-Loup	20 Dec	60	12,934	12	36	36	48	clear	none
Crawford	20 Dec	26	1,143	3	14	36	40	clear	none
DeSoto-Boyer	22 Dec	80	30,414	35	90	27	35	clear	none
Grand Island	15 Dec	60	9,574	19 + 8	33	24	48	clear	none
Harlan Co.	14 Dec	94	53,252	14	55	19	43	clear	none
Harrison	5 Jan	27	460	3		30	52	clear/pt. cloudy	none
Indian Cave	15 Dec	37	1,172	8	20	26	35	clear	none
Lake McConaughy	30 Dec	101	174,319	10 + 1	57	19	55	clear/pt. cloudy	none
Lincoln	16 Dec	69	15,264	50 + 4	105	28	49	clear	none
Lower Platte River	29 Dec	72	19,559	16 + 1	96	8	24	clear	none
Norfolk	15 Dec	56	8,843	20 + 2	57	26	47	clear	none
North Platte	16 Dec	82	36,344	11 + 1	27	19	48	clear	none
Omaha	19 Dec	65	39,428	31 + 1	65	35	48	clear	none
Ponca S.P.	14 Dec	53	3,268	12 + 2	34	17	42	pt. cloudy/clear	none
Scottsbluff	28 Dec	52	11,750	9 + 1	23	13	17	cloudy/pt. clear	none
		143	436,316[a]	336[a]	842[d]	23[b]	42[b]		
a-total (sum of column values)				209[c]					
b-average									
c-number of people who participated in CBCs. Note: many observers participated in more than one CBC.									
d-the sum of hours spent driving and walking during daylight, excluding feeder watching and owling									

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